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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK65//

TO CONVEY/PASSAGE/ROOMMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WH61341

TOHAK65

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT
TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

ROCKEFELLER-ALBERT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- UNAWARE THAT THEIR COMMENTS WERE BEING RECORDED INADEVERTENTLY, VICE PRESIDENT NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER AND HOUSE SPEAKER CARL ALBERT ENGAGED IN SOME UNCOMPLIMENTARY BANTER TODAY ABOUT LIBERIA.

ALBERT AND ROCKEFELLER WERE IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF LIBERIAN PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT JR., WHO WAS ABOUT TO ADDRESS A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS. THE SESSION WAS SLOW TO BEGIN BUT THE TAPE RECORDERS HAD ALREADY BEEN TURNED ON FOR USE LATER BY THE BROADCAST MEDIA.

ROCKFELLER TOLD ALBERT THAT A CLASS SYSTEM EXISTS NOW IN LIBERIA, WHICH WAS SETTLED 150 YEARS AGO BY FREED AMERICAN SLAVES. HE SAID THE REPATRIATED BLACKS HAVE TAKEN ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR WHITE SOUTHERN MASTERS.

"THEY NEVER LET LOCAL BLACKS GET IN," HE SAID.

ROCKEFELLER THEN SAID, ERRONEOUSLY, THAT SEN. EDWARD BROOKE, A BLACK REPUBLICAN FROM MASSACHUSETTS, WAS A ONE-MAN RECEIVING COMMITTEE FOR TOLBERT'S ARRIVAL ON CAPITOL HILL.

"HE'D BE A SLAVE IF HE WERE OVER THERE," HE SAID ALBERT.

INFORMED OF ALBERT'S COMMENT, AN AIDE TO BROOKE SAID THE SENATOR WAS "A LITTLE SURPRISED ... AND SORT OF

*****WHHR COMMENT*****

MYLAND, MCFARLANE, 800, SECPLC (4)

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PAGE 01

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SHOCKED.!!

NEITHER ALBERT NOR ROCKEFELLER HAD IMMEDIATE COMMENT.
THIS IS THE EXCHANGE, AS RECORDED BY BROADCASTERS.

ALBERT: ARE THERE MANY OF THE LIBERIANS THAT ARE MA-
LATTOST

ROCKEFELLER: MOST STRAIGHT BLACKS.

ALBERT: REAL BLACK.

ROCKEFELLER: THEY HAVE GOT A CLASS SYSTEM. THE BLACKS
WHO WENT BACK TO LIBERIA TOOK ON THE CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE SOUTHERN WHITES AND THEY TREATED THE LOCAL
BLACKS...

ALBERT: THEY NEVER LET THE LOCAL BLACKS GET IN ON
ANYTHING. BUT THEY'VE SLIGHTLY CHANGED THEIR SPEECH,
BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY.

ROCKEFELLER: ONLY SLIGHTLY.

ROCKEFELLER: ED BROOKE -- A ONE-MAN RECEIVING COMMITTEE.

ALBERT: YES, HE'D BE A SLAVE IF HE WERE OVER THERE.

ROCKEFELLER, WHO WAS KNIGHTED BY FORMER LIBERIAN
PRESIDENT WILLIAM TUBMAN IN 1959 WHILE ON A WEST AFRICAN
TOUR, HAD A PRIVATE MEETING WITH TOLBERT ON HIS SCHEDULE
THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

AT A NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, TOLBERT
WAS ASKED WHETHER IT IS TRUE THAT THE 'RULING CLASS' IN
LIBERIA SYSTEMATICALLY EXCLUDES INDIGENOUS BLACKS.

TOLBERT ANGRILY DENIED THAT SUCH WAS THE CASE AND HE
CHALLENGED THE QUESTIONER TO VISIT LIBERIA SO HE COULD SEE
THE SITUATION FOR HIMSELF.

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PAGE 02 OF 02 TOR:266/01100Z DTG:240010Z SEP 76

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